

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

House of Representatives—Jan. 4, 1828.

Mr. SERGEANT, from the Select Committee upon the subject of the Mint Establishment of the United States, laid before the House the following documents:

MINUTE OF THE UNITED STATES.
Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1827.

Sta: In compliance with the request of the Committee on the Mint, communicated in your letter of the 18th, I submit a statement of the condition of this establishment, and submit, for their consideration, such provisions for the extension thereof as appear due to the expanded field of its operations.

On the first establishment of the Mint, there were purchased, under the act of March 22, 1792, a house and lot on Seventh street, and one other lot fronting on a fourteen foot alley; being the district marked A and B in the delineation No. 1, herewith sent. Under a subsequent act of January 3, 1795, a third lot, marked C, was purchased, fronting on the aforesaid alley, and extending Northward to a private court, and separated from the lots before mentioned by a four foot alley, common to all the property bounded thereon.

No other ground or buildings were purchased for the accommodation of the Mint. It was, however, from an early period, found necessary to acquire an extension of the above limits; and the lot marked E, and section No. 5 of lot D, were accordingly obtained on rent, the former from year to year, the latter on a lease for a term of years.

Not only has this extension of space been found highly useful, and even absolutely necessary, since the extension of the operations of the Mint, by the application of steam power, but the occupancy of these lots was indispensable for securing the exclusive use of the alley on which they bounded, the privilege of which any other occupant might claim, thus subjecting the interior of the Mint to intrusion and exposure—a result wholly inadmissible.

The first mentioned lot, marked E, which had for a long period been held, as before mentioned, at an annual rent, which, in recent years, has been thirty dollars, was last summer, in a division of the Mint, which it contained, offered for sale. The necessity of retaining it within our control, made it advisable that an officer of the Mint should buy it, from whom it is now rented at the aforesaid rate, which is the interest of the purchase money. It is held subject to the option of the Government to become the purchaser at the same price. It may, therefore, be considered as effectively within the control of the Mint, and is, for illustration, delineated as if it were public property.

A brief notice of the application and general character of the buildings forming the group occupied by the Mint, will complete this outline of the establishment.

No. 1 is a dwelling house when purchased, or rather two dwelling houses, built of brick, three stories high. Under it are our vaults. The first floor embraces the receiving and weighing room, and one press room. The second floor is appropriated to the accommodation of all the officers, except the Assayer, who has a separate apartment. The assay furnace, and office of the Assayer, are on the third floor—a location exceedingly inappropriate, from the character of the chemical agents employed, but no better arrangement has been practicable. This building is after the most ordinary manner supplied in its interior with every necessary to comfort and convenience. The railway, by which all must reach the office, is a dark winding passage, in which a lamp is kept burning through the day.

The space No. 2 is a small paved yard, and passage to the remote buildings.

No. 3 is a two story brick building, erected in 1816, when steam power was first substituted for that of horses, for the purpose of rolling the ingots, &c. It contains the steam engine, and the machinery pertaining thereto, skillfully arranged. The department of the works has hitherto been found competent to its design, and is even capable of more than has yet been required. The engine is of the power of about ten horses.

No. 4 is a small frame building, rudely constructed, formerly a stable, and of little value; it is, however, the place of deposit for nearly all our coined and uncoined copper.

No. 5 is a two story brick building, which contains the melting and refining furnaces—so called, as it is a furnace, although the refining furnace occupies the cellar, that all the refining operations are often rendered by the insufficiency of this accommodation. How ill adapted to the exigencies of the establishment were the facilities it possessed, was strongly exemplified in the erection of this essential building on a lot leased for a brief term, which expired some time since, and the building was then removed from year to year. It may be readily imagined that, under these circumstances, the annual rent at which possession of this property is continued to us must be highly disproportionate to its value in any other application of it.

No. 6 is a small two story frame building, slightly constructed; it contains on the first floor the press by which most of our silver is coined, and is daily in use for this purpose. No. 7 is a small two story brick house, old and dilapidated, in which the cent coinage is executed. Above these two is a shop for making and repairing machinery. No. 8 is a smith shop, and No. 9 a coal house; both roughly boarded and covered in the same manner. This whole range presents an aspect singularly unbecoming to the important use to which some parts of it have been for so many years appropriated.

The lot E, as no building on it, but is employed as a wood yard. The four feet alley before mentioned, being thus wholly under the control of the Mint, is, of course, closed against all participation in its use.

Under the deficiencies thus exhibited, the operations of the Mint have hitherto been accomplished, generally, with an efficiency commensurate with the supply of bullion. No part of this supply, it may be remarked, is furnished by the Government; it is wholly derived from individuals, or incorporated companies, solicited and encouraged, only, by the privilege, tendered to the depositor from the first establishment of the Mint, that he should receive in coin, free of charge, all the fine metal contained in his deposits. The good policy of this provision has been manifested by the result. It has enabled the Mint to emit more than thirty millions of gold and silver since its establishment, and more than half that amount in the last ten years, as will appear by referring to the report on the operations of the Mint for 1827. Farther facilities appear requisite to perpetuate a copious and increasing supply of bullion hereafter, and to secure to the depositor the prompt coinage of it. It belongs to the present inquiry to trace the gradations by which the supply of bullion has hitherto been increased, the annual report before mentioned presents a variety of general results, pertinent to this point. It may, however, be satisfactory to the committee to present the facts according to a series somewhat varied in doing this, round numbers will be sufficient precise.

The whole amount of coinage from 1794 to 1800, inclusive, making a period of seven years, was, in round numbers, \$2,334,000; the average annual amount was \$332,000; and the greatest production in one year was \$646,000, being the coinage of 1799.

The coinage in ten years, from 1801 to 1810, amounted to \$6,971,000, the annual average was \$697,000, and the greatest amount in one year \$1,104,000, being the coinage of 1810.

The coinage in ten years, from 1811 to 1820, was \$9,328,000. Rejecting two years, which may be considered as lost through the effects of the war, and counting the period as eight years instead of ten, the average annual amount will be \$1,166,000; the greatest amount in one year was \$1,944,000, being the coinage of 1820.

The amount coined in the last seven years, from 1821 to 1827, was \$11,533,000; the average annual amount \$1,647,000; and the greatest amount in one year \$2,924,000, being the coinage of 1827.

Of the amount last mentioned, more than two thirds was received through the United States Bank, the source from which the largest part of our deposits is constantly derived, and to the agency of which may be assigned the rapid progression by which the emissions from the Mint have been increased within recent years.

With the preceding view, it may be proper to give also some of the general results exhibited in the report for last year, from which the following is an extract:

"Within the first fifteen years of the operation of the establishment, beginning with the year 1792, and ending in 1807, the amount coined was \$6,482,612 68 1-3; during the succeeding ten years, ending with 1817, the amount coined was \$7,719,979 85; and within the last ten years, \$16,266,850 61."

"The average annual coinage of the first period above mentioned, it will be found, was \$432,174 24, that of the second \$771,997 85, and that of the last period \$1,626,685 06. The coinage of the last year exceeds, by nearly a million of dollars, that of any year preceding, and is nearly two-fold the average amount of the period to which it belongs."

Whichever series of results may be selected, the fact appears the same, that the average in given periods advances by an accelerated difference; and the inference is rendered altogether probable, that, in the ten years commencing with the present, the average annual coinage will exceed \$2,500,000; and that, in some years of this period, the amount will be nearly \$5,000,000.

The progressive increase, though obvious in successive periods of seven or ten years, is by no means regular, being disturbed by various causes. The present year is an example, during a great part of which, the high price of exchange has strongly tended to induce the shipment of silver to Europe, in many of those forms under which it usually comes to the Mint. The amount of coinage for this year will therefore but little exceed that of the last seven years. There are, however, already evident indications that this state of things is drawing to a close; and it would not be remarkable if the pressure on the Mint should be unusually great for a few years to come. If it should amount to more than three millions, the capacity of the Mint is not equal to the execution of the amount without onerous delay, which would occasionally extend to four or five months, by which it is obvious that the policy of inducing bullion to flow into the country, in the returns of commerce, by the facility of prompt coinage, free of charge, is sensibly defeated.

One difficulty, due to commercial enterprise, and which it is beyond our power to afford nor merits particular notice. Silver bullion brought from certain districts of Spanish America, is known to contain gold in a valuable proportion. Application has been made to several houses, having extensive chemical laboratories, to induce them to devote a part of their attention to the detection of the gold, and without success. It must be brought under the cognizance of the Mint, if accomplished in this country: in a few instances it has been effected to a small extent, in the Assayer's department; but the agent which must be employed to effect it, with the requisite economy, cannot be used in the large way, in any apartment of the Mint, nor without a special command where a suitable laboratory for the purpose could be constructed: We have, therefore, in several instances, seen, with much regret, silver bullion of this character withdrawn from the vaults of the Mint, and exported to France or England, to be separated in the refineries there.

The draft exhibits the character and location of the buildings adjoining the Mint. Few remarks are necessary as to the inappropriateness of having private dwellings and private cellars adjoining our coining rooms and specie vaults. The danger may not be very great, and is in fact inappreciable; and even should it have hitherto averted any disaster, we may continue to do so. The exposure is not, however, unworthy of regard. There is real danger, though it may not be imminent; and it is obviously very desirable that the Mint should be detached from all contact with private dwellings.

I proceed to the inquiry, what improvement in the construction, or facilities, and machinery of the establishment are considered necessary. No repair or rebuilding of the present structures would afford an adequate improvement. The house appropriated to the several offices, which ought to be separately accommodated, is far too contracted for the purpose, and cannot be extended. There is no suitable place for the Assayer's department. A chemical laboratory adapted to the process of parting gold and silver is wholly precluded; and the introduction of the machinery for effecting coinage by steam power is impracticable.

In order to present a specific plan of an adequate suit of buildings, the draft No. 2 is offered as an example; exhibiting one of the forms in which adequate buildings might be arranged, occupying the smallest area which could be deemed sufficient. This form is selected, not because there are no other plans equally eligible, but because this may be realized on the present site, with the addition of certain adjoining lots. It consists of a front edifice, containing the several offices and apartments of business connected with them, and protecting the vaults, two parallel ranges of working rooms, and an extensive building on the rear, to accommodate additional machinery. The whole detached from all the adjacent dwellings.

To construct this establishment on the present site of the Mint, would require that the ground extending to the fourteen foot alley on the south, and to the private court on the north, embracing the lot F on the east, should be purchased. These, with the ground already occupied by the Mint, would form an area 90 feet in front, and 150 feet deep, leaving a vacant space of six feet on the south. It is believed that these additional lots might be obtained at from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars. Not much advantage could be derived from any of the buildings now occupied by the Mint, except No. 8, which could be retained, and made to form a part of the arrangement delineated.

The expense of constructing the requisite buildings may be estimated at from 50 to 60 thousand dollars. Much would depend on the style of the front edifice. It should be in good taste. The extent of the appropriation would afford some criterion by which to judge of the expectation entertained in this regard. The other buildings should possess all the advantages of exterior, which well adjusted proportions, symmetry, and aptitude could exhibit. This is a cheap and enduring style of beauty in an edifice.

The question of the style of the principal edifice is a public concern of some little moment, and will claim its due consideration. My special object is an efficient establishment, which may accomplish the design of this institution with a promptitude commensurate with the expectations of the Government and the wants of the public.

To secure this capacity for enlarged operations, the new combinations of machinery, devised and executed by Mr. Boulton, and adopted in some of the mints of Europe, ought to be had in view, and space, in a suitable position, appropriated for its reception and employment at an early period. This topic has been the subject of some preliminary inquiries addressed to Mr. Boulton in 1827. From his reply, it appears that so much of his system of machinery as it might be desirable to introduce, would cost about \$7,000 at Liverpool.

It is understood that machinery of this description, constructed by Mr. Boulton for a Mint in South America, is in New York for sale. If this should be found adapted to our purpose, it

would be judicious to embrace the opportunity of securing it; the expense, it is presumed, would be as low as the price charged by Mr. Boulton at Liverpool.

It would be desirable that the provisions for extending the Mint establishment should leave an option to enlarge it on the present site, or on a new one, as should be found expedient. This would, at least, enhance the chances of attaining the object in view on more favorable terms.

If the Committee perceive, in the considerations presented, sufficient reasons for an extension of the Mint establishment, I beg leave to ask that the measure may not be deferred, if practicable to accomplish it during this session. In every department, repairs have been procrastinated, when it has been possible, in the belief, that something more than repairs would, eventually be deemed proper. The roof of four front buildings is in a decayed state, and ought to be renewed, if it is to be used much longer; the state of others of the buildings has been before mentioned; and it is proper to add, that the boiler of our steam engine has been in use since 1816, and it is not prudent to rely on it much longer. It is to be wished, that when renewed, it should form a part of the improved establishment, with a proportional enlargement. Up to the present time, the power of the mint has been generally adequate to the coinage demanded, without untoward delay. The time cannot be far distant, and is probably very near, when the demand will exceed its capacity. On the whole, I trust the committee will be of the opinion that it will be wise to authorize an extension of this establishment, and expedient to do it now. A considerable time must elapse, before any thing can be accomplished effectually. Every step will require to be taken with studious care, that there may be nothing deficient or superfluous.

The committee will, I hope, excuse the expression of some sensitiveness, on account of the repulsive aspect which the group of buildings appropriated to the Mint presents. A transient allusion to this is alone intended. Where I, however, to press this consideration with some earnestness, I should be sustained by the tenor of the remarks made by all the members of Congress who have visited us—a feeling of concern having been uniformly expressed, that an exterior so unsightly should characterize an institution so eminently national.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MOORE.

Hon. JOHN SERGEANT,
Chairman, Committee on the Mint.



PHILADELPHIA:
WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 14, 1828.

The multiplication of the five loaves, the chef d'œuvre of FRANC FLORIS, the FLEMISH RAPIER, is said to have been lately discovered in an old monastery in WESTERN FRIESLAND. It is to be cleaned, and sent to ANTWERP, the birth place of the artist.

A volume of *Tales* and a volume of *Sermons*, by the Rev. Mr. GLEIG, the author of the *SUBALTERN*, have probably, by this time, been issued from the LONDON press.

The SUPREME COURT met, at WASHINGTON, on Monday, Judges WASHINGTON and STORY only being present, they adjourned to Tuesday, on which day Judge DUVAL was expected. There is one vacancy on the bench, the nomination of a successor to the late Judge TRIMBLE having not yet been confirmed by the Senate.

On Monday, in the House of Representatives, the memorials on the subject of *Sunday mails* were so numerous that the reporter of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER found it necessary to omit the usual notice of them.

We understand that about twenty young persons have been received into the HOUSE OF REFUGE—the number of boys considerably exceeding that of girls. The former are employed in basket-making, book-binding, and shoe-making—the latter in needlework and domestic services. The committees are engaged in collecting, and there is every reason to believe that, if all friends to the establishment will exert themselves, the amount wanted will be procured within a reasonable time. Several persons contributing liberally, have remarked that they would have done so at an earlier period, had they been called on. We hope that all disposed to give will forward their contributions at once, and not suffer the benefit of their good will to be lost by any accidental omission.

The REFUGE at NEW YORK contained, we observe, at the commencement of the year, 129 boys and 32 girls. The EVENING POST of yesterday, gives a letter from the Acting Committee inviting the Mayor and Common Council to visit the house.—We copy a portion of it, as another proof that these institutions, well conducted and sufficiently endowed, realize in their effects the most sanguine hopes of their founders:—

"The managers are anxious that the guardians of the city should make themselves familiar with the character and merits of this institution. Here they will see the simple process by which the vicious are reclaimed—those who were once erring and idle, now engaged in labour and study—habits of order, sobriety, and cleanliness, giving a new tone to minds once employed in the most baneful pursuits—and the hope of improvement and future respectability, impressing with energy upon the heart, the healthful purpose that the errors of the boy shall be forgotten in the worth and integrity of the man. A paternal system, which has its foundation laid in that ennobling principle of Religion, the love of Truth, which is conducted with unvarying regularity and subjected to a constant routine of inspection, has rewarded the labours of the society with the most happy results. During the last year 150 subjects have been indentured

from the Refuge—and that not because they had served out a specified time, to pay the penalty of a violated law—not because we had an opportunity to get rid of them—but because, their improvement and reformation was such as to render them fit for the places for which they were selected."

The SECRETARY of the NAVY was directed by the House of Representatives, at the last session, "to prepare and report a plan for connecting, with two or more of the NAVY YARDS of the UNITED STATES, as many establishments for purchasing, water-rotting, and preparing for manufacture, American hemp and flax, and also cotton, as well as for manufacturing the same into cordage and canvases, for the use of the Navy."

The Secretary, in a letter to the Speaker, dated December 16, 1827, states that the principal part of the plan has, on mature consideration, been found impracticable.—He adds:—"A careful consideration has been given to the resolution, and it has been found impracticable, in any view which the Department can take of the subject, to unite the proposed establishments for water-rotting hemp and flax to our Navy Yards; and therefore a plan for this connexion is not and cannot be given. The whole of our Navy Yards, with the exception of New-York and Pensacola, have recently been examined, and plans formed for their future improvement, which have received the sanction of the Executive, and which would be injuriously deranged by any effort to accomplish that object. Nor, indeed, is it perceived how it would be practicable to do it, if these plans of improvement had not been made. If such establishments are to be formed, the nature of the labor and the circumstances attending it, would require that they should be at a distance from, and altogether unconnected with, the Navy Yards. Health and comfort would demand that the two should be separated. The buildings to be erected for the reception of hemp and flax, the works necessary for rotting it, in situations such as those of our Navy Yards, and the individuals to be employed at the labor, are of a character totally distinct from those now at our Naval establishments. They would form new and different employments and business. The same difficulties occur, and the same remarks are applicable, as regards the manufacture of canvases. On the latter part of the resolution, for manufacturing hemp into cordage, no difficulty is felt to exist. The opinion has heretofore been expressed, that establishments for this object ought to be connected with one or more of our Navy Yards; and additional experience has proved that it would be wise and economical to erect them without delay. An estimate for this purpose is added. A single establishment, which might be erected with the amount estimated, and which should be placed either in the Norfolk yard, or near to the one in Washington, would be sufficient to supply all wants of the Navy, and would secure us the best possible manufacture."

The CONCERT at the Hall of the MUSICAL FUND, on Monday, ought to prove attractive. Mde. FERON and PEARMAN, are already well known and appreciated. Mrs. PEARMAN has not yet given us a specimen of her talent, but we have observed that she is in esteem among the critics of New-York and Boston. Mr. WILLIS is to lead the orchestra.

We insert the report which Mr. McDUFFIE presented, on Monday, in the House of Representatives, from the Committee of Ways and Means, on the subject of taxing sales at auction—with the bill recommended by the Committee.

The Committee are of opinion that, whatever may be the evils of the auction system, the remedy belongs, exclusively, to the States; and that CONGRESS has no power to act, except with a view to prevent violation of the revenue laws.

The bill provides that, at the sale of foreign goods, by auction, at or near a port of entry, the original invoice on which the duties were charged, or a certified copy, shall be produced; and that schedules containing the names of the inspector and consignee, with a particular description of the goods, &c. shall be printed and made public in the manner pointed out by the bill. By the last section certain sales are excepted.

Aware of the deep solicitude which prevades a large portion of the commercial community on the subject referred to them, the Committee have bestowed upon it all the attention which this consideration, as well as the intrinsic importance and difficulty of the questions presented for their decision, so obviously demanded. Several merchants of great respectability and intelligence, who were in attendance, as delegates, from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Alexandria, appeared before the Committee, and stated the results of their experience and observation, as to the injurious tendency of selling foreign merchandise at auction. They all concurred in the opinion that the existing system of auction sales furnishes great facilities for the perpetration of frauds upon the community, as well as upon the public revenue.

Whatever may be the frauds and impositions committed upon the community by means of this mode of selling merchandise, and however obvious the expediency of repressing these evils, the Committee are unanimously of the opinion that the application of the remedy belongs exclusively to the State Legislatures. The whole subject of contracts and sales falls clearly within the province of local legislation. Whatever form of sale a State may think proper to tolerate, and however imperfect the responsibility of sellers may be rendered by its legislation,

Congress have no power to interpose, unless for the purpose of preserving from violation the laws of the Union, or for carrying into effect the powers granted to the Federal Government.

If, however, sales at auction are the means by which frauds are committed upon the revenue, and if they enable foreigners to enter their goods at the custom house at lower rates than the same quality and description of goods are habitually entered by American merchants, there can scarcely be a question, either as to the power or the duty of Congress to interpose its authority. The remedy, however, should have appropriate and exclusive reference to the evil it is designed to correct.

A tax upon Sales at Auction would neither prevent the alleged frauds upon the revenue, nor the alleged advantage enjoyed by foreigners, unless it should amount to a prohibition; and, even in that case, it would be of doubtful efficacy.

As the Committee believe Congress has no power to act upon the subject, except with a view to preserve the revenue laws from violation, they have reported a bill prescribing certain regulations of sales of foreign merchandise at auction, which, at the same time that it avoids the objections to which other remedies would be liable, will, it is hoped, go far to correct the evils of which the memorialists complain.

A BILL imposing regulations on Sales at Auction, for the further protection of the Revenue.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That, from and after the 31st day of May next, no sale of any goods, wares or merchandise, the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign place or country, shall be made at public sale, within any city or town within the United States, which, by the laws thereof, has been or may be erected into a port of entry, or within twenty miles of such city or town, unless the auctioneer, or person so selling said goods, wares, or merchandise, shall, at the time of said sale, exhibit the original invoice on which the duties had been levied, at the Custom-House of the Port into which they were imported, or a certified copy of said invoice, under the hand of the Collector of said Port, or his Deputy.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the 31st day of May next, in all sales at public auction, of any goods, wares, or merchandise, of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign place or country, in any city or town which is or may be, by the laws of the United States, a port of entry, or within twenty miles thereof, the auctioneer, or person so selling the same, shall publish, or cause to be published, in one or more of the newspapers printed in said city or town, forty-eight hours immediately before said sale, schedules of said goods, wares, or merchandise, containing the name or names of the Importer and Consignee, with a particular description of said goods, wares, or merchandise, with the original marks and numbers, and the name or names of the vessel or vessels in which the same were imported, together with the time of importation; and shall also exhibit a number of such schedules at the time and place of sale. Provided, That if no newspaper be printed in such city, town, or place, said schedules, either written or printed, shall be posted up, for the same number of hours before the sale, in three public places within said city, town, or place; and in like manner be exhibited at the time and place of sale.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That any auctioneer, or other person, who shall, after said 31st day of May, any goods, wares, or merchandise, of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign place or country, at public auction, knowing that the same goods, wares, or merchandise had been smuggled into any port or place within the United States, or any territory thereof, or knowing that the same had been introduced into the United States, or any territory thereof, in evasion of the revenue laws, or that the full amount of the duties by law due thereon had not been paid or secured to be paid, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every offence, the full value of the goods, wares, or merchandise, so sold as aforesaid.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That any auctioneer or other person, who shall sell after said 31st day of May, any goods, wares, or merchandise, of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign place or country, at public auction, knowing that the same goods, wares, or merchandise had been smuggled into any port or place within the United States, or any territory thereof, or knowing that the same had been introduced into the United States, or any territory thereof, in evasion of the revenue laws, or that the full amount of the duties by law due thereon had not been paid or secured to be paid, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every offence, the full value of the goods, wares, or merchandise, so sold as aforesaid.

Section 5. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Collectors of the Customs in their respective districts, to prosecute for the recovery of any of the penalties or forfeitures which may accrue under this act. And all penalties and forfeitures which may accrue or be incurred, shall and may be sued for and recovered in the District Court of the United States for the district in which the said penalty or forfeiture may accrue or be incurred, in the name of the auctioneer, or other person, who shall, after said 31st day of May, sell or attempt to sell, at public auction, any goods, wares, or merchandise so imported as aforesaid, without having exhibited the invoice, or a copy thereof, mentioned in the first section of this act, or without having published the schedule or schedules, according to the requirements of the second section, of this act, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every offence, one third of the value of the goods so sold as aforesaid.

Section 6. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of this act shall not be deemed or construed to extend to any sale made at auction of any property belonging to the United States, or to any Sheriff's or other sale under process of law, nor to any sale where the same goods, wares, and merchandise, had been theretofore sold, bona fide at auction, under the forms and requisitions of this act. Nor shall the provisions of this act be deemed or construed to extend to the sale of any goods, wares, or merchandise, from whatever place imported, unless the same were, at the time of said importation, chargeable with duties under the laws of the United States, nor shall the provisions of the first section of this act be deemed or construed to extend to the selling off at auction of the stock of goods of any retail merchant or trader.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The SENTINEL of this morning, gives the annexed report from the Committee on roads, bridges, &c., who had under consideration a resolution relative to canal contracts. The report was laid on the table.

That they have given to the resolution, that consideration, which its importance merited, and by carefully comparing the report of the board of canal commissioners with the act of the 26th of March, 1828, the committee are led to the conclusion, that the board cannot place any more of canal line under contract within the present year—with respect to the rail road from Columbia to Philadelphia, the committee are of opinion, that it would be highly injudicious in the legislature at this time to interfere with the arrangements entered into by the board of canal commissioners, as it must appear obvious to all our citizens, that the speedy completion of this road, will greatly promote the interest of the state by giving facility to the rich and growing trade of the west and the Susquehanna, to go to our great and prosperous commercial emporium. Therefore,

Resolved, That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. From the same source we learn that a bill has been reported, by the Committee on Claims, by which CHRIST CHURCH and ST. PETER'S are to form a separate corporation, and St. JAMES', which is now united with them, another.

A correspondent of the New-YORK AMERICAN has extracted, from the Register for 1829, the following particulars in relation to the present condition of the Navy:

There are, at this time, thirty-five CAPTAINS, viz:

From Maine,.....1	From Maryland,.....7
Massachusetts,.....1	Virginia,.....6
Connecticut,.....4	Delaware,.....1
New York,.....4	England,.....1
New Jersey,.....3	Ireland,.....1
Pennsylvania,.....6	

The number of MAJORS COMMANDANT, is thirty-three—of whom there are

From Maine,.....1	From Maryland,.....3
Massachusetts,.....1	Virginia,.....3
Connecticut,.....1	Delaware,.....1
New York,.....1	South Carolina,.....4
Rhode Island,.....2	England,.....1
Connecticut,.....1	
New Jersey,.....3	
Pennsylvania,.....4	

The number of Lieutenants is.....57

Surgeons,.....43
Assistant Surgeons,.....34
Purser,.....41
Chaplain,.....8
Paymaster,.....32
Midshipmen,.....433
Sailing Masters,.....30

The MARINE CORPS consists of

1st Lieut. Col. Commandant,.....5
Captains,.....29
1st Lieutenants,.....15
2d Lieutenants,.....15

There are about seven ships of the line, rating 74 guns each, all of which are hauled up in cordage, excepting the Delaware, (on the Mediterranean station. They are, the Independence, at the Navy Yard, Boston. Franklin, New York. Washington, New York. Columbus, Boston. Ohio, New York. North Carolina, Gosport. Of Frigates of the second class, each rating 44 guns, there are seven, viz:

United States, at the Navy Yard, New York.
Constitution, in the Pacific.
Guerricke, in the Pacific.
Potomac, at the Navy Yard, Washington.
Brandywine, in the Pacific.
Hudson, Coast of Britain.

Of Frigates of the first class, rating each 36 guns, there are four, viz:

Congress, at the Navy Yard, Washington.
Constitution, Norfolk.
Macedonian, Norfolk.
Fulton, (steam ship), New York.

Of Sloops of War, each rating 18 guns, except the two first, each of which rate 24, there are sixteen, viz:

John Adams, at the Navy Yard, Norfolk.
Cyane, in the Pacific.
Ontario, New York.
Hornet, in the West India.
Eagle, in the West India.
Peacock, fitting out at our Navy Yard for the Polar Expedition.

Boston,.....On the Coast of Britain.

Lexington,.....In the Mediterranean.
Vincennes,.....In the Pacific.
Warren,.....In the Mediterranean.
Natchez,.....In the West India.
Falmouth,.....In the West India.
Fairchild,.....In the West India.
Vandalia,.....On the Coast of Britain.
St. Louis,.....In the Pacific.

Concord, fitting out at Portsmouth. Of Schooners, rating each 12 guns, there are four, viz:

Dolphin,.....In the Pacific.
Grampus,

At the masqued ball given on the morning of the Dauphin—afterwards Louis XVI.—with the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, a circumstance occurred which yielded much diversion to the whole Court. The buffet, splendidly furnished, afforded refreshments in profusion to the company. A man in a yellow domino was remarked to come and go frequently; and to make dreadful havoc amongst the liquors, the exquisite wines and the eatables. No sooner did this man appear than it returned again,—and renewed its assault on the good cheer before it

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